



A level Sociology

Mrs Varcoe
ECO 5





What is sociology?

- Sociology is the study of society – how people interact in groups.

Topics studied: Year 12

Areas explored	
Education	Differences in educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society. Teacher/pupil relationships, pupil identities and subcultures, the hidden curriculum, and the organisation of teaching and learning.
Families and Households	Theories of the family. The changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation & divorce. Gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society. The nature of childhood.
Theories	Marxism, functionalism, the New Right, feminism, postmodernism.
Research methods	Quantitative and qualitative methods of research. Sources of data, including questionnaires, interviews, participant and non-participant observation, experiments, documents and official statistics. Ethical considerations.



Topics studied: Year 13

Areas explored	
Beliefs in society	Ideology, science and religion. Religious organisations including cults and sects. The relationship between different social groups and religious/spiritual organisations and movements. The significance of religion in the contemporary world
Crime and deviance	The social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class. The media and crime, green crime, human rights and state crimes. Crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment.
Theories	Consensus, conflict, structural and social action theories. The concepts of modernity and post-modernity in relation to sociological theory
Research methods	The relationship between positivism, interpretivism and sociological methods. The nature of science and the extent to which Sociology can be regarded as scientific





Applying contemporary issues



THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO MAKE A FAMILY





Assessment

100% exam

3 exams – 2 hours each

Highest tariff questions are 30 mark essay questions



Entry requirements

Five 9-4 grades at GCSE

Minimum average of 4.5

Grade 5 or above in English (Language or Literature)



What makes a good sociology student?

- Organised
- An interest in the world around you (politics, current affairs, moral issues etc.)
- Ability to contribute to class discussions
- Prepared to step outside of your own views and opinions
- Strong essay writing skills
- The ability to think critically
- Resilient
- Have motivation and self-discipline to work independently



Questions?

